

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MONROV 01341 241705Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----242226 030080 /73

R 241602Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3765
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

S E C R E T MONROVIA 1341

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ET, SREF
SUBJECT: DEFECTION OF SENIOR ETHIOPIANS

REF: A) MONROVIA 1174; B) STATE 038994; C) MONROVIA 1249

1. IN HIS MEETING WITH DCM FEBRUARY 24 KIFLE MADE THE FOL-
LOWING POINTS:

(A) HE WOULD BE AMONG FIRST TO URGE THE UNITED STATES
TO ENDEAVOR MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA PARTICU-
LARLY SINCE "GOVERNMENTS COME AND GO". HE SAID THIS HAS
BEEN U.S. POLICY IN THE PAST -- A POLICY WHICH HE CONSIDERED
MOST UNDERSTANDING OF DIFFICULT PERIOD IN ETHIOPIAN HISTORY,
A MODERATE AND SOUND POLICY.

(B) HE UNDERSTANDS THAT A REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM
IN THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE USG IN THAT
TO GRANT SUCH A REQUEST WOULD IN ITSELF BE A POLITICAL DECI-
SION CREATING PROBLEMS FOR USG IN ITS RELATIONS WITH EPMG.

(C) THEREFORE, WHAT HE WOULD HOPE TO DO IS OBTAIN
A GRANT OR SCHOLARSHIP FOR ADVANCE STUDIES IN FOREIGN
AFFAIRS FROM A PRIVATE U.S. INSTITUTION. HE WOULD HOPE

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THE USG MIGHT BE ABLE TO ASSIST HIM IN THIS. HE MEN-
TIONED THAT IN 1969 HE WAS INVITED BY THE HARVARD CENTER
FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS TO SPEND A YEAR THERE ON A
GRANT BUT WAS UNABLE TO ACCEPT. OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF
HIGHER LEARNING HE MENTIONED WERE PRINCETON AND JOHNS
HOPKINS.

2. AS FOR FUTURE KIFLE SAID HE EXPECTS REMAIN IN MONROVIA FOR ANOTHER TWO WEEKS. IN PARTICULAR HE IS WAITING FOR FONMIN DENNIS TO RETURN FROM LOME. HE IS PLAYING TENNIS REGULARLY AND MAKES NO ATTEMPT AT KEEPING A LOW PROFILE. HE SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN CONTACTED BY ANY REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS GOVERNMENT.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: IT WAS SUGGESTED TO KIFLE WITH REGARD TO 1.(C) ABOVE THAT HE SHOULD BEGIN MAKING SOUNDINGS ON HIS OWN WITH HIS CONTACTS IN THE UNITED STATES AND HE INDICATED THAT HE WAS TRYING TO DO JUST THAT. (HE MENTIONED THAT HIS BROTHER WHO WORKS FOR THE WORLD BANK IS TRAVELING IN AFRICA AND DOUBTLESS HE WILL TURN TO HIM FOR ASSISTANCE.) HOWEVER, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD SEEK DEPARTMENTAL GUIDANCE RE THE POSSIBILITY OF KIFLE COMING TO THE UNITED STATES FOR STUDY AND SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO OBTAIN GRANTS OR SCHOLARSHIPS. PLEASE ADVISE.
CARTER

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NNN

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